



about the safety of nuclear power. EPA withdraws Agent Orange from the U.S. market. **1980** Congress passes the task force reports that acid rain is intensifying in the Northeastern U.S. and Canada and outlines a 10-year global

CLEAN LAND

From Superfund to Super Parks

One hundred years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt called on us to preserve the nation's great natural landscapes for future generations. Between 1901 and 1909, he set aside nearly 230 million acres for parks, sanctuaries, and reserves. Preserving our landscapes is not just about protecting the places we visit on vacation, but about enhancing our communities where we live, work, and raise our families.

Throughout the region, acres of abandoned land and decrepit buildings have replaced vital industries. Most toxic waste sites requiring Superfund cleanup are where people live and work — the auto repair shop that used toxic solvents to clean engines; the dry cleaner that used volatile chemicals in laundering; the factory that manufactured metal goods; or the garbage dump that accepted industrial waste.

The Texas and Louisiana coasts are home to 214 chemical facilities and 32 refineries. The major regulated facilities reported about 550,000 tons of annual air emissions in this Gulf Coast region. In 1970, approximately 100 million tons of hazardous wastes were generated from chemical and petroleum industries in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and New Mexico.

Refineries and petrochemical facilities have improved waste control and use new technologies to reduce or eliminate hazardous wastes.

EPA and the states use permits, inspections, and environmental monitoring to ensure industries are operating properly. Communities and citizens play a vital role in our efforts to protect the environment and ensure quality of life.

In 1980, Congress passed the Superfund law to clean up the nation's worst hazardous waste sites. Hazardous materials are now tracked from production to disposal, and citizens must be kept informed about potential dangers.

During the last 18 years, EPA's Superfund accomplishments were substantial. More than 675 of the nation's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites have been cleaned up and 85 more can be completed by the end of 2000. In fact, since January 1993, construction has been completed on more than three times as many sites as in the previous 13 years combined. The Superfund program involves state partners, local governments, and the public.

Cleanup is completed or underway at the region's 94 Superfund sites. Approximately 5 long-term and 20 short-term cleanups are completed each year. Since 1982, the region has cleaned up 43 sites, and responsible parties have paid 70 percent of the cleanup costs, saving taxpayers millions of dollars. Since

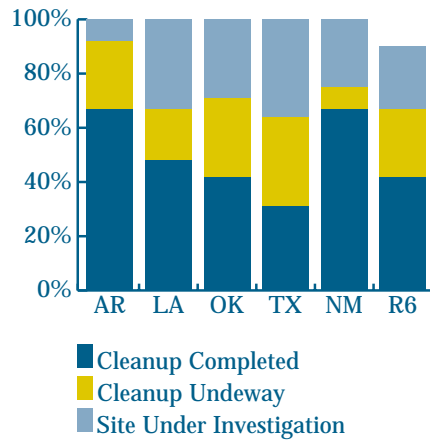
October 1995, the region used innovative approaches to modify 18 cleanup decisions to accelerate construction and save more than \$100 million. From 1996 to 1999, the average amount billed to cooperating private parties for clean-up oversight was reduced 85 percent.

Recycling Land and Buildings

Environmental cleanups can bring life and economic vitality back to communities. More than 13,000 restored acres are now in reuse, creating 11,000 jobs and representing more than \$225 million in annual income.

More than 32,000 low-level hazardous waste sites have been put on the fast-track for

Superfund Sites: Cleaned Up or Underway As of December 1999



redevelopment by eliminating unnecessary red tape and the stigma of contamination for potential developers. It is estimated that about 450,000 such sites exist

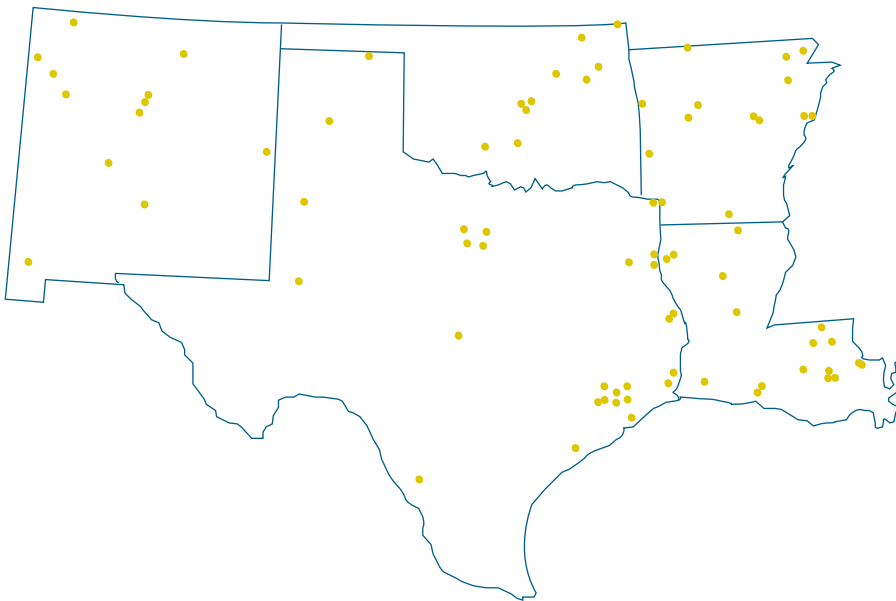
nationwide. Brownfields redevelopment has been one of the most effective tools for restoring and preserving communities. More than 300 brownfields pilot programs have been created by states, communities and Tribes across the country, and over 845 properties are being assessed for redevelopment.

Through grants to Tribes and local governments, EPA has helped to take abandoned land and buildings and eliminated the environmental hazards to make the property developable and livable, generating new jobs and an increased tax base. Since 1995, EPA's Central-South region has awarded \$200,000 each to 24 brownfields pilot projects. EPA has restored 32 brownfields properties, and cleared the way for more than 11 properties that do not need additional cleanup. We have leveraged more than \$1 billion in redevelopment funds and have been the catalyst to support more than 1,500 jobs.

A shining example of a revitalized site is the old Dallas Electric Company. A \$325 million development project transformed it into the Dallas Victory Center, which is part of a larger development project and the brownfields program.

From the 1920s until 1986, Oklahoma Steel Castings in

Location of Superfund Sites





The Jefferson North End Site had been abandoned for over 20 years. Today, it is the location of a \$34 million, multi-family residential complex near downtown Dallas. EPA Regional Administrator Gregg Cooke, Administrator Carol Browner and Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, welcome leaders to the 1999 Brownfields Conference.

Tulsa was a productive company. In 1950, it was the largest such facility west of the Mississippi with more than 400 workers. Now the

site exemplifies what a community is doing to revitalize a blighted area. Its proximity to downtown Tulsa, major highways, and

railroads makes it suitable for development. A cooperative effort between the industrial authority, the site's current owner, and the community is underway to restore the site for use as a single-industry or multi-tenant industrial park.

Brownfields Redevelopment Pilots

Louisiana

- Shreveport
- Southeast Louisiana Regional Planning Commission
- New Orleans
- Gretna

Oklahoma

- Tulsa
- Oklahoma City
- Association of South-Central Oklahoma Governments
- Comanche Nation

New Mexico

- Albuquerque
- Bernalillo County
- Sante Fe
- Pueblo of Acoma
- State of New Mexico Environmental Department
- Rio Grande Council of Governments

Texas

- Dallas
- Fort Worth
- Grand Prairie
- Tarrant County
- Austin
- San Antonio
- Houston
- Galveston
- Laredo
- Brownsville

Our success is gaining momentum, and through grants and other assistance, EPA has helped states and Tribes develop these programs.

Long-term benefits of brownfields programs include eliminating environmental hazards and making the properties usable. This generates new jobs, an increased tax base, reduced urban sprawl, and builds better partnerships between public and private sectors.